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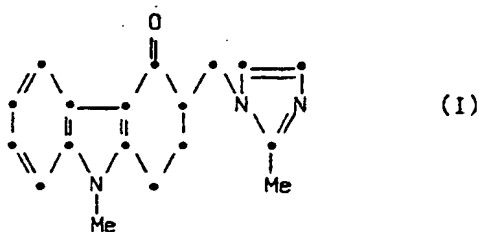
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## Description

This invention relates to a new medical use for a heterocyclic compound and pharmaceutical compositions containing it. In particular it relates to the use of 1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-one and the physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof in the treatment of depression.

The aforementioned compound may be represented by the formula (I):



and is disclosed in UK Patent Specification No. 2153821A.

Suitable physiologically acceptable salts of the compound of formula (I) include acid addition salts formed with organic or inorganic acids for example, hydrochlorides, hydrobromides, sulphates, phosphates, citrates, fumarates and maleates. The solvates, may, for example, be hydrates.

The aforementioned specification also discloses physiologically acceptable equivalents of the compound of formula (I), i.e. physiologically acceptable compounds which are converted in vivo into the parent compound of formula (I).

The compound of formula (I) is described in the aforementioned specification as a potent and selective antagonist of 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) at 'neuronal' 5-HT receptors of the type located on terminals of primary afferent nerves. Receptors of this type are now designated as 5-HT<sub>2</sub> receptors and are also present in the central nervous system. 5-HT occurs widely in the neuronal pathways in the central nervous system and disturbance of these 5HT containing pathways is known to alter behavioural syndromes such as mood, psychomotor activity, appetite and memory.

The compound is described as being of use in the treatment of a human or animal subject suffering from a condition caused by a disturbance of neuronal 5-HT function, for example in the treatment of a human subject suffering from migraine pain or psychotic disorder such as schizophrenia. It is also stated that the compound may be useful in the treatment of conditions such as anxiety, obesity and mania.

We have now found that the compound formula (I) may be used in the treatment of depression.

Accordingly the invention provides a method of treatment of a subject, in particular a human subject, suffering from depression, which comprises administering to the subject an effective amount of the compound of formula (I) or a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

References in this specification to treatment include prophylactic treatment as well as the acute alleviation of symptoms.

A preferred form of the compound of formula (I) is the hydrochloride, particular in a hydrated form (e.g. the dihydrate).

In a further aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition which comprises an effective amount of the compound of formula (I) or a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate (e.g. hydrate) thereof, for use in medicine, particularly human medicine, for the treatment of depression.

In a yet further aspect, the invention provides for the use of the compound of formula (I) or a physiologically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of depression.

Pharmaceutical compositions for use in accordance with the present invention may be formulated in conventional manner using one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

Thus the compound of formula (I) and its physiologically acceptable salts and solvates may be formulated for oral, buccal, parenteral, rectal or transdermal administration or in a form suitable for administration by inhalation or insufflation (either through the mouth or the nose).

For oral administration, the pharmaceutical compositions may take the form of, for example, tablets or capsules prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents (e.g. pregelatinised maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose); fillers (e.g.

lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or calcium hydrogen phosphate); lubricants (e.g. magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrants (e.g. potato starch or sodium starch glycollate); or wetting agents (e.g. sodium lauryl sulphate). The tablets may be coated by methods well known in the art. Liquid preparations for oral administration may take the form of, for example, solutions, syrups or suspensions, or they may be presented as a dry product for constitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as suspending agents (e.g. sorbitol syrup, cellulose derivatives or hydrogenated edible fats); emulsifying agents (e.g. lecithin or acacia); non-aqueous vehicles (e.g. almond oil, oily esters, ethyl alcohol or fractionated vegetable oils); and preservatives (e.g. methyl or propyl-p-hydroxybenzoates or sorbic acid). The preparations may also contain buffer salts, flavouring, colouring and sweetening agents as appropriate.

Preparations for oral administration may be suitably formulated to give controlled release of the active compound.

For buccal administration the compositions may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional manner.

The compound of formula (I) may be formulated for parenteral administration by injection e.g. by bolus injection or continuous infusion. Formulations on injection may be presented in unit dosage form e.g. in ampoules or in multi-dose containers, with an added preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulatory agents such as suspending, stabilising and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g. sterile pyrogen-free water, before use.

The compound of formula (I) may also be formulated in rectal compositions such as suppositories or retention enemas, e.g. containing conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter or other glycerides.

In addition to the formulations described previously, the compound may also be formulated as a depot preparation. Such long acting formulations may be administered by implantation (for example subcutaneously, transcutaneously or intramuscularly) or by intramuscular injection. Thus, for example, the compound of formula (I) may be formulated with suitable polymeric or hydrophobic materials (for example as an emulsion in an acceptable oil) or ion exchange resins, or as sparingly soluble derivatives, for example, as a sparingly soluble salt.

A proposed dose of the compound of the invention for administration to a human (of approximately 70kg body weight) is 0.05 to 20mg, preferably 0.1 to 10mg of the active ingredient per unit dose, expressed as the weight of free base. The unit dose may be administered, for example, 1 to 4 times per day. The dose will depend on the route of administration. It will be appreciated that it may be necessary to make routine variations to the dosage depending on the age and weight of the patient as well as the severity of the condition to be treated.

The compound of formula (I) may be prepared by the processes described in UK Patent Specification No. 2153821A and the following examples illustrate its preparation and salt formation. Temperatures are in °C.

#### Example 1

##### 1,2,3,9-Tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-one

A solution of 3-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-9-methyl-4H-carbazol-4-one hydrochloride (1.7g) in water (17ml) was treated with 2-methylimidazole (1.4g) and then heated under reflux for 20h. The cooled mixture was filtered and the residue washed with water (3x15ml) to give a product (1.7g) m.p. 221-221.5°. This material was recrystallised from methanol to give the title compound (1.4g) m.p. 231-232°.

#### Example 2

##### 1,2,3,9-Tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-one hydrochloride dihydrate

1,2,3,9-Tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-one (18.3g) in a hot mixture of isopropanol (90ml) and water (18.3ml) was treated with concentrated hydrochloric acid (6.25ml). The hot mixture was filtered and the filtrate diluted with isopropanol (90ml) and stirred at room temperature for 17h, cooled to 2° and the solid filtered off (21.6g). A sample (6g) was recrystallized from a mixture of water (6ml) and isopropanol (10ml) to give the title compound as a white crystallization solid (6g) m.p. 178.5-179.5°.

Analysis Found: C, 59.45; H, 6.45; N, 11.5.  
 $C_{18}H_{19}N_3O.HCl.2H_2O$  requires C, 59.1; H, 6.6; N, 11.5%.  
 Water assay Found: 10.23%  
 $C_{18}H_{19}N_3O.HCl.2H_2O$  requires 9.85%

The following examples illustrate pharmaceutical formulations for use according to the invention, containing 1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl) methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-one hydrochloride dihydrate as the active ingredient (1.25g of the hydrochloride dihydrate contains 1.00g of the free base).

#### 10 TABLETS FOR ORAL ADMINISTRATION

Tablets may be prepared by the normal methods such as direct compression or wet granulation. The tablets may be film coated with suitable film forming materials, such as hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, using standard techniques. Alternatively the tablets may be sugar coated.

##### 15 Direct Compression Tablet

		<u>mg/tablet</u>
20	Active Ingredient	4.688
	Calcium Hydrogen Phosphate BP*	83.06
	Croscarmellose Sodium NF	1.8
25	Magnesium Stearate BP	0.45
	Compression weight	90.0

\* of a grade suitable for direct compression.

The active ingredient is passed through a 60 mesh sieve, blended with the calcium hydrogen phosphate, croscarmellose sodium and magnesium stearate. The resultant mix is compressed into tablets using a Manesty F3 tablet machine fitted with 5.5mm, flat bevelled edge punches.

##### 40 Sub-Lingual Tablet

		<u>mg/tablet</u>
40	Active Ingredient	2.5
	Compressible Sugar NF	62.0
	Magnesium Stearate BP	0.5
45	Compression Weight	65.0

The active ingredient is sieved through a suitable sieve, blended with the excipients and compressed using suitable punches. Tablets of other strengths may be prepared by altering either the ratio of active ingredient to excipients or the compression weight and using punches to suit.

Wet Granulation

	<u>Conventional Tablet</u>	<u>mg/tablet</u>
5	Active Ingredient	2.5
	Lactose BP	151.0
	Starch BP	30.0
10	Pregelatinised Maize Starch BP	15.0
	Magnesium Stearate BP	1.5
		<hr/>
15	Compression Weight	200.0

The active ingredient is sieved through a suitable sieve and blended with lactose, starch and pregelatinised maize starch. Suitable volumes of purified water are added and the powders are granulated. After drying, the granules are screened and blended with the magnesium stearate. The granules are then compressed into tablets using 7mm diameter punches.

Tablets of other strengths may be prepared by altering the ratio of active ingredient to lactose or the compression weight and using punches to suit.

25	<u>Sub-Lingual Tablet</u>	<u>mg/tablet</u>
	Active Ingredient	2.5
	Mannitol BP	56.5
30	Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose	5.0
	Magnesium Stearate BP	1.0
		<hr/>
35	Compression Weight	65.0

The active ingredient is sieved through a suitable sieve and blended with the mannitol and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose. Suitable volumes of purified water are added and the powders are granulated. After drying, the granules are screened and blended into tablets using suitable punches.

Tablets of other strengths may be prepared by altering the ratio of active ingredient to mannitol or the compression weight and punches to suit.

	<u>CAPSULES</u>	<u>mg/capsule</u>
45	Active Ingredient	2.5
	* Starch 1500	96.5
50	Magnesium Stearate BP	1.0
		<hr/>
	Fill Weight	100.0

55

\* a form of directly compressible starch.

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The active ingredient is sieved and blended with the excipients. The mix is filled into size No. 2 hard gelatin capsules using suitable machinery. Other doses may be prepared by altering the fill weight and if necessary changing the capsule size to suit.

## 5 SYRUP

This may be either a sucrose or sucrose free presentation.

10	A. Sucrose Syrup		<u>mg/5ml dose</u>
	Active Ingredient		2.5
	Sucrose BP		2750.0
15	Glycerine BP		500.0
	Buffer )		
	Flavour )		
	Colour )		
20	Preservative )		as required
	Purified Water BP	to	5.0ml

25 The active ingredient, buffer, flavour, colour and preservative are dissolved in some water and the glycerine is added. The remainder of the water is heated to dissolve the sucrose and is then cooled. The two solutions are combined, adjusted to volume and mixed. The syrup is clarified by filtration.

30	B. Sucrose-Free		<u>mg/5ml dose</u>
	Active Ingredient		2.5
	Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose USP (viscosity type 4000)		22.5
35	Buffer )		
	Flavour )		
	Colour )		
	Preservative )		as required
	Sweetener )		
40	Purified Water BP	to	5.0ml

45 The hydroxypropylmethylcellulose is dispersed in hot water, cooled and then mixed with an aqueous solution containing the active ingredient and the other components of the formulation. The resultant solution is adjusted to volume and mixed. The syrup is clarified by filtration.

## INJECTIONS

The injection may be administered by the intravenous or subcutaneous route.

50			<u>µg/ml</u>
	(i) Active Ingredient		800
55	Dilute Hydrochloric Acid BP	to pH 3.5	
	Sodium Chloride Injection BP	to 1ml	

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The active ingredient is dissolved in a suitable volume of Sodium Chloride Injection BP, the pH of the resultant solution is adjusted to pH3.5 with dilute hydrochloric acid BP then the solution is made to volume with sodium chloride injection BP and thoroughly mixed. The solution is filled into Type 1 clear glass 5ml ampoules which are sealed under a headspace of air, by fusion of the glass then sterilised by autoclaving at 120° for not less than 15 minutes.

	<u>mg/ml</u>
(ii) Active ingredient	0.80
Citric Acid Monohydrate BP	0.50
Sodium Citrate BP	0.25
Sodium Chloride BP	9.00
Water for Injections USP to	1.0 ml

The citric acid monohydrate, active ingredient, sodium citrate and sodium chloride are dissolved in the major portion of the water for injections, the solution is made to volume and mixed thoroughly. After filtration, the solution is filled under air into ampoules which are sealed by fusion of the glass. The ampoules are sterilised by autoclaving for at least 15 minutes at 121-124° C.

## SUPPOSITORY

Active Ingredient	5.0mg
* Witepsol H15 to	1.0g

A suspension of the active ingredient is prepared in the molten Witepsol and filled, using suitable machinery, into 1g size suppository moulds.

## Claims

- The use of 1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-one and physiologically acceptable salts and solvates thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of depression.
- Use according to claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament adapted for oral, buccal, parenteral or rectal administration, or as a depot preparation.
- Use according to claim 1 or 2 for the manufacture of a medicament in unit dose form containing from 0.05 to 20 mg of active ingredient per unit dose expressed as the weight of free base.
- Use according to claim 3, wherein the amount of active ingredient per unit dose is from 0.1 to 10 mg.
- Use according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the 1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-one is used in the form of a hydrochloride salt.
- Use according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the 1,2,3,9-tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-one is used in the form of the hydrochloride dihydrate salt.

## Revendications

- Utilisation de la 1,2,3,9-tétrahydro-9-méthyl-3-[(2-méthyl-1H-imidazole-1-yl)méthyl]-4H-carbazole-4-one et de ses sels et solvates physiologiquement acceptables, pour la fabrication d'un médicament pour le traitement de la dépression.

\* Witepsol H15 is a proprietary grade of Adeps Solidus Ph. Eur.

2. Utilisation selon la revendication 1 pour la fabrication d'un médicament adapté à l'administration orale, buccale, parentérale ou rectale, ou comme préparation retard.
3. Utilisation selon la revendication 1 ou 2 pour la fabrication d'un médicament sous forme posologique unitaire contenant de 0,05 à 20 mg d'ingrédient actif par dose unitaire, exprimé en poids de la base libre.
4. Utilisation selon la revendication 3, dans laquelle la quantité d'ingrédient actif par dose unitaire est de 0,1 à 10 mg.
5. Utilisation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, dans laquelle la 1,2,3,9-tétrahydro-9-méthyl-3-[(2-méthyl-1H-imidazole-1-yl)méthyl]-4H-carbazole-4-one est utilisée sous la forme d'un sel chlorhydrate.
6. Utilisation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, dans laquelle la 1,2,3,9-tétrahydro-9-méthyl-3-[(2-méthyl-1H-imidazole-1-yl)méthyl]-4H-carbazole-4-one est utilisée sous la forme d'un sel chlorhydrate dihydraté.

#### Patentansprüche

1. Die Verwendung von 1,2,3,9-Tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-on und der physiologisch annehmbaren Salze und Solvate davon für die Herstellung eines Arzneimittels für die Behandlung der Depression.
2. Verwendung nach Anspruch 1 für die Herstellung eines Arzneimittels, das für die orale, bukkale, parenterale oder rektale Verabreichung geeignet ist oder für ein Depotpräparat.
3. Verwendung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2 für die Herstellung eines Arzneimittels in Dosiseinheitsform, die 0,05 bis 20 mg an aktivem Bestandteil pro Dosiseinheit, ausgedrückt als das Gewicht der freien Base, enthält.
4. Verwendung nach Anspruch 3, wobei die Menge an aktivem Bestandteil pro Dosiseinheit von 0,1 bis 10 mg beträgt.
5. Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, wobei 1,2,3,9-Tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-on in Form eines Hydrochloridsalzes verwendet wird.
6. Verwendung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, wobei 1,2,3,9-Tetrahydro-9-methyl-3-[(2-methyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-methyl]-4H-carbazol-4-on in Form des Hydrochlorid-dihydratsalzes verwendet wird.